



Vision

We envision a community where people independently support themselves and their families, and where individuals are safe from abuse and neglect.

Mission

We will assist people in economic need, protect children and vulnerable adults, and promote the safety and well-being of the citizens of Talbot County.

Administrative Staff

April A. Sharp, LCSW-C
Director

Shari Blades, LCSW-C
Assistant Director, Adult Services, Foster Care and Income Support

Diane Shaffer, LCSW-C
Assistant Director, Child Welfare and Workforce Support

Simon Bredenberg
Assistant Director, Administration and Child Support

Board of Directors:

Laura Heikes, Chair

Connie Lauffer, Vice Chair

Corey Pack, County Council

Carrie Gould-Kabler

A. Thomas Duncan, III

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CREDIBILITY • INTEGRITY • ACHIEVEMENT

Talbot County

Department of Social Services

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Annual Report Fiscal Year 2015



April A. Sharp, Director



Lawrence J. Hogan Jr., Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor

Sam Malhotra, Secretary

To Our Partners and Friends:

The Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2015 highlights the accomplishments of the staff in the programs that provide services to Talbot County citizens. These programs serve individuals and families; from birth to the end stages of life. Within the Department's core mission, the vulnerable are protected, those in economic need are supported, and families are strengthened.

Staff at the Department are the backbone of the services and programs available to the citizens in Talbot County. Their steadfast commitment to customer service, best practices, and quality improvement are evident in the outcomes achieved for this year. To this end, along with the Advisory Board, I acknowledge their day to day diligent efforts.

We value the support from the many agencies, fraternal organizations, foundations, and faith groups who join us in our mission. With your continued support, we will provide for those in economic need and provide safety for children and vulnerable adults.

Yours in service,

April A. Sharp, LCSW-C
Director

Program Outcomes

Services

Child Protective Services

Provides professional services by completing all assigned Investigations and Alternative Responses within the mandated time frames in an effort to protect children from abuse and neglect. CPS met

- 26 Physical Abuse Allegations
- 28 Neglect Allegations
- 19 Sexual Abuse Allegations
- 41 Alternative Responses provided
- 32 Investigative Responses provided

8 of the 9 Place Matters Child Welfare Goals were met in FY15.

Foster Care/Adoption/Respite

Provides safe, stable and temporary out of home placement for children who can no longer remain in their own homes. Seeks permanency for children through Adoption, relative placement, reunification and APPLA.

- 20 children in Foster Care (Annual Average)
- 86% of children placed in Talbot or adjacent counties (Dorchester/Caroline)
- 3 children reunified with their caregivers
- 4 Finalized Adoptions
- 2 children left care to Guardianship
- 13 Licensed Foster Homes
- Option Respite served 95 children with a total of 782 nights of respite

In-Home Family Services

Provides short-term, voluntary services to families at risk for maltreatment or out of home placement in an effort to secure safety of children and promote stability within families.

- 14 families with 23 children served by Consolidated Services
- 13 families with 29 children served by Family Preservation Services
- 43 Family Involvement Meetings held

Adult Services

Assists vulnerable adults unable to provide for their basic needs and provides voluntary services to adults to maintain safety, stability and self-sufficiency. The Nurturing Program was held twice during FY15 servicing a total of 40 parents and 41 children.

- 96 Adult Protective Services Investigations
- 96 APS Assessments
- 276 units of APS continuing service
- 332 units of SSTA and Senior Care
- 6 Project Home Providers
- 285 units of IHAS service
- 99% of adults with no re-occurrence of abuse
- 97% of adults remaining in the community

Family Investment Administration (FIA)

Provides assistance to eligible residents in the areas of food, cash, medical care, childcare, emergencies and employment assistance with the goal of helping residents to become self-sufficient.

- 66 TCA cases open monthly (Average)
- 20 full time job placements \$10 and up (State Goal 9)
- 73 total Job Placements (State Goal 26)
- 59 TDAP participants monthly (Average)
- 4,514 Food Stamp participants (Annual)

Child Support

Strives to establish paternity, support orders, collect support for custodial parents and provide non-custodial parents with supports to overcome employment barriers.

Child Support received Gold Certificate Honors from DHR for FY2015.

- 107.89% of Paternity Establishment
- 93.79% of cases with Support Orders established
- 69.51% of Child Support Collected
- 79.96% of Collections on Arrears
- \$2,484,837 Current Child Support collected
- 60 parents served through Non- Custodial Parent Employment Program (NPEP)
- 100% of participants obtained employment during their time with NPEP

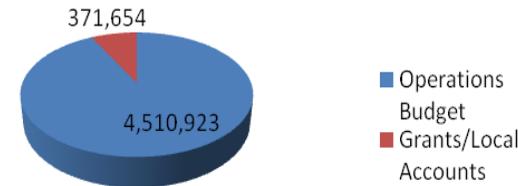
Local General Administration

Provides essential support to all the agency's staff members and has direct responsibility for all finances, budgeting, building maintenance, fleet operations, security, inventory, procurement and information technology.

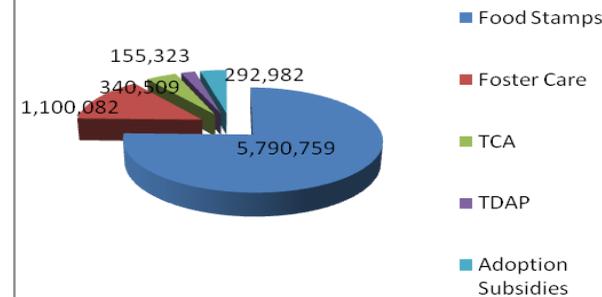
- 69 Staff Positions (63 Merit, 4 Contractual, 2 Vendor Agency)
- 4,528 hours of staff training
- New car added to state fleet in 2015, total of 8 vehicles maintained for state business

Fiscal Report

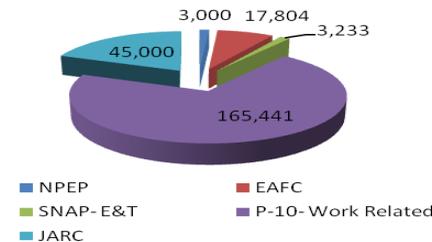
Operating Costs FY15



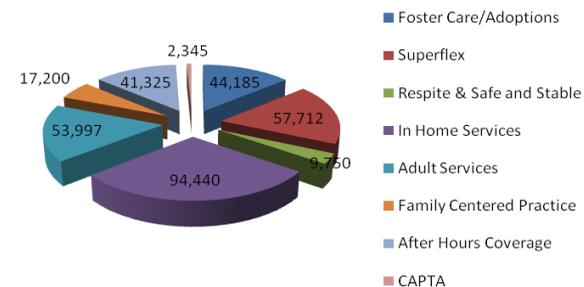
State Expenditures FY15



FIA Expenditures FY15



Services Expenditures FY15



Agency Accomplishments



July 2015 Site Visit from Secretary Sam Malhotra
Pictured from right to left: Diane Shaffer, Susan Moore, Simon Bredenberg, James Carter, Addie Eckardt, April Sharp, Sam Malhotra, Corey Pack, Greg James, Tracy Paliath, Andy Hollis, Drew McKone

Adult Services Policy and Practice Initiative (PPI) was implemented with several informational sessions with community partners and the 2nd Annual Senior Financial Exploitation Task workshop was held.

A partnership with Mid Shore Community Foundation was established to form Talbot Villages, an independent 501C3.

Thrive @ 25 continued in Phase I and TCDSS assisted with submission of the application for the Implementation Phase II of the grant (awarded in FY16)

A mini-grant from the Talbot County Arts Council to provide an 8-week project for a group of survivors of sexual abuse to create a booklet featuring their writing and artwork.

Child Support Unit met all four Federal measures and have met these goals for three consecutive years.

Planning and Development of "Empower Me", child abuse prevention program.

The agency participated in 39 community outreach events, in addition to regular program outreach events.

The TCDSS' Children's Library continues to thrive and provided families with a total of 957 books in FY15. New partnerships with The Country School and local Girl Scouts were formed.

TCDSS's Resource room has been enhanced with additional technology, staff and a designated customer service unit. This has been extremely helpful for customers with the continued changes in FIA and the MHC.

TCDSS Wellness Committee obtained grants and subsidized Weight Watchers @ Work. Total weight loss of over 600 lbs.

A new partnership with St. Mark's United Methodist Church with the Open Table Program was established.